

Action Item

*Educational Policy and Programs Committee*

Approval of the Minutes of the February 4, 2002, Meeting

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# MINUTES

## *Educational Policy and Programs Committee*

Meeting of February 4, 2002

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**Committee  
members present**

Evonne Seron Schulze, *Chair*  
William D. Campbell  
Irwin S. Field  
Susan Hammer  
Kyo "Paul" Jhin  
Rachel E. Shetka  
Alan S. Arkatov, *ex officio*  
Carol Chandler, *ex officio*

**Other Commissioners present**

Lance Izumi  
Robert L. Moore  
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.  
Olivia K. Singh

**Committee  
members absent**

Odessa P. Johnson, *Vice Chair*  
Howard Welinsky  
Melinda G. Wilson

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**Call to order**

Committee Chair Schulze convened the Educational Policy and Programs Committee meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Chair Schulze noted that there are five Commissioners on the Committee present and welcomed President Barbara Hiocco and Chancellor Frank Gornick.

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**Needs analysis  
for the  
West Hills College  
at Lemoore,  
West Hills  
Community  
College District**

Staff member Gil Velazquez said the West Hills Community College District has proposed to transition its Lemoore education center to full campus status. He said this item was discussed at the previous Commission meeting and there were some follow-up items including the additional need for information concerning outreach for the growing Latino population in the Kings County area and information regarding the financial viability of the district. He informed the Committee that staff is satisfied with the information that has been provided.

Commissioner Field indicated he was in favor of approving the Lemoore Educational Center to full campus status because it will provide opportunity for residents there. He noted that institutions that serve 1,700 to 2,000 FTE students have great difficulty maintaining financial viability, and it will take a lot of work to cover the fixed costs of a campus that size.

Mr. Velazquez indicated that there have been two viable decisions made by the local governing district that address the issue of the financial viability for new institutions: The issuance of certificates of participation totaling \$20.0 million and an increase in its general fund reserve from 3% to 5%.

Chancellor Gornick also added that both of the population centers are 40 miles apart and the area is one of the most economically depressed areas in California. He said to continue to deny access is not something his board wants to do, and advised that the general bond obligation has been funded at 66.66%.

Ms. Hiocco described the technical infrastructure relating to e-learning as well as several partnerships that have contributed to the development of the Lemoore education center.

A motion to accept the staff recommendation was made, it was seconded and approved unanimously to recommend the opening of a new community college in Lemoore, California.

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**Report on  
proposed revisions  
to the guidelines  
for review of  
proposed new  
campuses and  
educational  
centers**

Staff member Velazquez reported on recommended changes to the Commission's *Guidelines for Review of Proposed University Campuses, Community Colleges, and Educational Centers*.

Mr. Velazquez reviewed the historical responsibilities of the Commission for authorizing new facilities. He said there is a need to revise the guidelines to take advantage of new opportunities and make them more effective so the segments can better plan for new facilities.

The need for updating the document was outlined as follows:

- ◆ Segments face shorter planning horizons.
- ◆ Emergence of intersegmental collaborative ventures.
- ◆ Title Wave II surge in enrollments.

The substantive changes to the revised guidelines proposal are as follows:

- ◆ The replacement of the required system-wide long range plans with a "Preliminary Notice."
- ◆ Increase the FTES enrollment threshold for new University and community college facilities by 1,000 to ensure that they are financially viable for the long term.
- ◆ Expand the scope of the guidelines to include joint-use centers.

Mr. Velazquez stated that the new guidelines are approximately 95% complete and staff will be deliberating further with the advisory committee to look at the following:

- ◆ Reformatting the presentation of the content with the development of a matrix that will show the previous language and the new language.
- ◆ Minor technical changes for clarity.
- ◆ Noncredit centers for community colleges.
- ◆ Off-campus centers that have less than 500 fall-term FTES.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that an off-center campus should be able to offer every service that a full-blown campus can. He asked what could be done for the Commission to be more proactive versus looking at adding more community colleges and what options are available to the Commission from a planning and budgetary view in terms of having to engage in the process.

Mr. Velazquez said joint-use centers create a financially viable institution where segments will share costs and local contributions can put dollars on the table to relieve some of the burden on the State's scarce resource dollars. He said these kinds of initiatives are very promising and are being looked at by staff as options.

Commission Chair Arkatov suggested the inclusion of K-12 in regards to joint-use because it is a high impact/high need area particularly in urban centers where there are unmet capacity issues. He inquired as to where virtual colleges would fit in when talking about new campuses and distance learning.

In response to K-12 partnerships, Mr. Velazquez said that depending on the outcome of the bond proposal for education, the Commission expects to convene an advisory group to make additional changes to the Guidelines. The advisory group would include K-12 representation. Mr. Velazquez also said there are provisions in the current guidelines that speak to the issue of providing alternative options for the delivery of education including technology mediated sources.

Chair Schulze expressed her frustration in not knowing what has been changed and indicated that she looks forward to the comprehensive matrix.

Commissioner Moore noted the following three issues of concern:

- ♦ Commissioner Johnson has strong concerns around the 500 FTES issue.
- ♦ A letter received by the Chancellor's Office of the San Francisco City College regarding the inclusion of joint-use facilities on an existing institutional site and whether or not it will be something that will be discussed by the advisory committee.
- ♦ Education cannot be the stand-alone entity that tries to grapple with the issues that face society.

Mr. Velazquez stated that the advisory committee will continue to discuss the issues raised in the letter received by the San Francisco Chancellor's Office.

Commissioner Jhin indicated the need for more representation by the economic development community in the continuing deliberations on guideline changes.

Commissioner Field pointed out that in the Director's Summary of the proposal a statement is made that in the short-run the new threshold should result in fewer colleges becoming eligible for State capital outlay. He asked for further clarification.

Mr. Velazquez replied that because of the relative increase in the FTES threshold for new institutions, there will be fewer proposals until the colleges reach the threshold.

Commissioner Field asked if access will be affected, and Mr. Velazquez stated that staff believes access is being addressed by the off-campus proposals.

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**Update on the  
Commission's  
student information  
and accountability  
system (AB 1570)**

Staff member Martin Miller provided a status report on the progress since 1999 to implement AB 1750 which mandates Commission data collection from public colleges and universities according to unique individual student identifiers. Some of the recent developments are as follows:

- ◆ The addition of a social security number identifier to allow the Commission to conduct longitudinal studies of college and university student performance in the areas of retention, degree completion, and student transfer among others.
- ◆ The Commission has been engaged in a number of activities to prepare for and meet compliance requirements associated with AB 1570.
- ◆ The Department of Finance has approved the feasibility study report.
- ◆ The implementation of a “firewall” security plan to ensure that data is private.
- ◆ The Commission convened a working group in March of 2001 that consisted of the three public segments, the California Student Aid Commission, the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Vocational Education, and the California Independent College and Universities.

The recommendation that came from this working group is as follows:

- ◆ The Commission will enter into a written agreement setting out the terms and conditions as well as the procedures and protocols under which data will be exchanged and used.

Mr. Miller stated that the segments and partners have indicated that once the Commission has finalized the procedures and protocols, the new student data will be able to be accessed with the new unique identifier.

Chair Schulze asked Mr. Martin if the Commission would be able to track students that go into the private and independent colleges.

Mr. Miller responded that the Commission will not be able to track those students. He said the independent colleges have been involved in discussions with staff and have expressed interest in being a partner to the agreement in one form or another in the future.

Commissioner Izumi asked what sorts of accountability mechanisms are contemplated in the use of the data that is collected.

Director Fox stated that the Commission has indicated to the Legislature and to the Administration that these data would be helpful for some accountability measures, but not all. He indicated the Commission is currently unable to produce accountability reports around staff, faculty, individual teaching or individual courses because there is no mechanism in place. He indicated that in some limited areas like student flow, data would be able to be used for accountability reports.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked when the database will be ready for use and what kind of reports and activities are envisioned.

Director Fox explained that a draft report on the sequence of reports is available and will be provided to Commissioner Rodriguez.

Staff member ZoAnn Laurente informed Commissioner Rodriguez that once the social security numbers of students are obtained, the Commission will have information about community college transfer students.

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**Progress report on  
the Commission's  
2001 college  
eligibility study**

Staff member Stacy Wilson provided the Commission with an update on key activities related to the *2001 College Eligibility Study of California Public High School Graduates*. He said the college eligibility studies are among the most complex empirical research efforts undertaken by the Commission on behalf of the State of California.

A myriad of issues surrounding eligibility, including the demographic changes occurring in California, recent K-12 reform efforts, and the University of California's top-4% path to eligibility (ELC). For that reason, staff sought the assistance of qualified statisticians in designing a valid sampling methodology for the 2001 study. He said these were statisticians from the University of California, Berkeley, and from the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington D.C, and a social scientist from California State University, Sacramento.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the sampling design of the study, which is summarized as follows:

- ◆ Students are grouped by schools.
- ◆ each public high school represents a non-overlapping stratum.
- ◆ within each stratum, a probability sample is taken such that every student in the school has an equal chance of being selected.

He noted that the design gets complicated because African Americans are not distributed across the State as evenly as the other ethnic racial groups. He said a 6% probability sampling of students from high-performing schools might mean that no African Americans would be included in the sample if they represent 3% or less of the graduating senior class.

Thus, for high-performing schools with fewer than 3% African-American graduates in 2000-01, the transcripts of all African American graduates would be used as part of its sample. The Task Force selected the 1996 UC Eligibility Median as a stratification variable in order to identify high-performing schools with respect to college eligibility. Appropriate statistical weighting procedures will be applied to guarantee that the eligibility estimates will be unbiased for the public universities.

Mr. Wilson said that the study intends to generate statewide eligibility estimates, as well as eligibility estimates by gender, ethnic-racial group, and geographic region.

Two design challenges that will be resolved over the next month include developing:

- ◆ a method for including the University's ELC program in the overall statewide design; and
- ◆ a procedure for receiving high school transcripts electronically.

Commissioner Rodriguez recommended that staff review a report authored by Pat Callan that raised concerns about the method used in sampling Latino students in previous eligibility studies. Mr. Wilson said he was unaware of the report, but that he would try to obtain a copy of it.

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**Adjournment**    Chair Schulze adjourned the Educational Policy and Programs Committee at 4:35 p.m.

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